



THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Mandela marks 95th birthday in hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Former South African president Nelson Mandela will spend his 95th birthday in hospital today, as admirers around the world honour his legacy with millions of acts of kindness.

In South Africa biker gangs will clean streets, volunteers will paint schools and politicians will spend 67 minutes on worthy projects -- a tidal wave of charity to mark Mandela's 67 years of public service.

"Let us return Madiba's sacrifices and contributions through our own efforts to build a better society," said South African President Jacob Zuma using Mandela's clan name.

The United Nations declared the Nobel peace laureate's birthday Mandela Day in 2010, but for many this year it takes on extra poignancy.

Mandela his country's first black president, spent the last six weeks in a Pretoria hospital in a critical but stable condition after being admitted

for a recurring lung infection. Breathing with the help of a machine, family and friends have said he is now responding to treatment.

His successor as president, Thabo Mbeki, even suggested he might be discharged from hospital soon.

But on the eve of his 95th birthday and after a series of hospitalisations, that seems optimistic.

"I just hope that although he may not be able to enjoy his 95th birthday, that he will be well enough for his 96th" said friend and fellow anti-apartheid campaigner George Bizos told AFP.

Children in schools around South Africa will begin their day by singing "Happy Birthday" to the former statesman.

Born July 18 in 1918, Mandela fought against white rule as a young lawyer and was convicted of treason in 1964.

He spent the next 27 years in jail.

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Hagel orders cuts for Pentagon headquarters



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has ordered a 20 percent cut in funding for the Pentagon's top civilian and military headquarters by 2019, saying everyone has to "do their part."

Hagel announced the order Tuesday during a visit to a naval air base in Jacksonville, Florida, portraying the move as a signal that no element of the military's bureaucracy would be immune from

budget pressures.

Previous Pentagon leaders also have tried -- with little success -- to scale back the top-heavy bureaucracy.

These past efforts have taken aim at the large number of well-paid civilian officials and senior officers who work for the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, a mini-administration that supports the Pentagon chief.

Hagel's spokesman, George Little, said the newly proposed reduction would result in savings of roughly \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion over five years, which by itself would not solve the Defense Department's budget woes.

Aruba Marriott supports local Summer Program "Art Rules Aruba"



Brainstorming session taking place in the Amsterdam Meeting Room in Aruba Marriott & Stellaris Casino



Palm Beach -- On Sunday July 14th was the annual kick off for the summer program Art Rules Aruba at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. Coordinated by the sisters Ayra and Ira Kip of the nonprofit foundation Pancake Gallery, twenty international professionals gathered at Aruba Marriott's Ballroom for the first brainstorming session followed by a brunch at La Vista restaurant. The

two week summer program offers young aspiring Arubans a platform to cultivate their artistic talent and skills. Over two hundred fifty local participants will receive classes in various disciplines including music, dance, poetry, graphic design, photography and other visual arts which will be presented at the annual showcase on Friday July 26th in San Nicolas.

"As a part of Marriott's

Spirit to Serve our local community, we are excited to be a sponsor and part of this amazing program for local teenagers. Art Rules Aruba allows them to explore their talents and to receive the support to grow and develop their skills", said Marriott's PR & eCommerce Manager Keirsin Tjon.

Photography: Niels Stokkel

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Seven teams presented to keep our beaches clean!



Mr. van Nes

At the start of the week, the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) presented 7 teams whose job will be to

maintain and keep our beaches clean, starting from Baby Beach to Arashi and other points on the island.

This week the team members were all given security vests at the beginning of the week on the Plaza Turismo.

The primary goal of these clean up teams is to ensure that our beaches are kept clean and maintained as these areas are frequented by our visitors and locals alike.

Since the start of this project three years ago, we have noted that Aruba has become a lot cleaner. This is a frequent comment made by many visitors, according to TPEF President, Jan Van Nes.

TPEF is also working in close association with Clean-

masters who has placed some 100 garbage bins at different areas along the island. They intend to increase the number of these garbage bins in the near future.

The board of TPEF intends to increase the number of these clean up teams in the future and to station them in the Santa Cruz area, Spaanslagoen and Paradera, just to mention a few of the areas. The objective is to create a completely clean Aruba at all points.

According to van Nes, it is very important for a tourism island to create the impression of organization and cleanliness. A clean place also gives one a feeling of safety, which also hence, this team plays a vital role in keeping Aruba clean.

Chamber of Commerce Director Mr. Maduro advocates: Aruba can be a part of the global economy development



which we have both, as well as that of the US and the Caribbean. According to Maduro, in addition to bringing companies together and helping them develop economic relationships, we also have the possibility for developing the logistic communication.

Maduro admits that there is, indeed, strong competition in the region, yet we cannot overlook the fact that we are very close to the mayor point of commercial contact and of transport at a global level. This, in reference to the amplification of the operations of the Panama Canal. "If we create the right conditions, we can be part of this economic development," according to Leo Maduro.

Maduro was invited by VNO to provide assistance and guidance to the Dutch commercial delegation visiting the island during the past week, giving them a clearer idea of the business capacity and potential on Aruba.

According to Chamber of Commerce Director, Leo Maduro, the initiative taken by the government of Aruba to develop an industry of service and knowledge to function as a mediator between companies in Europe and Latin America has put Aruba in a position to play an important role in the global economy.

Aruba is propositioning Europe and Latin America to serve as mediator between them based on the knowledge of the language and culture of

Jews must be paid back 'with interest': Amsterdam mayor

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Jewish survivors of Nazi camps during World War II who were charged rent arrears upon their return to the Dutch capital after the war should be repaid "with interest," Amsterdam's mayor has said.

"Every penny that we got because we were heartless or bureaucratic, we will have to pay back, with interest," Eberhard van der Laan told a television interview on private broadcaster KRO late on Tuesday evening.

Controversy erupted in March when a young art history student revealed that the city charged a number of Jews and non-Jews back rent for their properties, even if their homes had been destroyed or occupied by Nazis.

"We were shocked to learn about what happened," Van der Laan told chat show "Oog in oog" ("eye-to-eye"), saying an investigation was underway.

Less than a quarter of Amsterdam's Jewish population survived the war during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands between 1940 and 1945.

Of the 80,000 Jews deported from Amsterdam, only some 18,000 survived.

The municipality at the time even demanded payment for homes confiscated by the Dutch National Socialist NSB movement, who collaborated with the German occupiers.

"Looking at it now, it's a

horrible case," said Van der Laan, adding: "I am very surprised that people who have themselves experienced the occupation could have been so heartless."

The victims of the city's bureaucracy themselves at the time did question the decision.

A businessman named J. W. Levending wrote on June 29, 1946: "So we must again pay the piper? Those who for years lived in suffering, locked up, from whom everything was taken by the Germans."

"We get the bill that should have been paid by the men from the NSB, and fines despite the fact that we weren't even there. I wonder that these gentlemen the bureaucrats can be so ignorant of the situation that they demand such payments?"

Despite the protests, Amsterdam's civil servants however persisted with demands for money, strictly applying the rules.

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Weight for it: Dubai rewards losers with gold

DUBAI (AFP) - Shedding weight in Dubai is being rewarded in gold under a new initiative by the municipality of the Gulf emirate aimed at fighting obesity, local newspapers reported on Wednesday.

"Your Weight in Gold" is the title of a campaign promising one gramme of gold for every kilo shed, provided a minimum of two kilos (4.6 pounds) of weight are lost by August 16.

The campaign coincides with the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which ends before mid-August.

During Ramadan, the faithful refrain from eating, drinking and smoking between dawn and sunset.

But many tend to tuck in heartily after dark, despite warnings that overindulgence can be bad for the health.

The three campaign-winning losers will each receive a gold coin worth 20,000 dirhams (\$5,449) through a lucky draw. Other weight losers will share gold coins worth 200,000 dirhams.

Participants will be required to use scales installed in public parks, will receive guidance from dietitians and will have to pledge not to use unhealthy methods to lose the weight.

Insurance Information for students going to The Netherlands

Group	Last name (achternaam)	Date	Place	Hour
1	Letter A en B	17 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	6.30 pm - 7.30 pm
2	Letter C en D	17 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
3	Letter E t/m G	17 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	8.30 pm - 9.30 pm
4	Letter H t/m J	18 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	6.30 pm - 7.30 pm
5	Letter K en L	18 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
6	Letter M t/m O	18 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	8.30 pm - 9.30 pm
7	Letter P t/m S	19 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	6.30 pm - 7.30 pm
8	Letter T t/m Z	19 July 2013	Collegezaal EPI	7.30 pm - 8.30 pm

The Study facility and -guidance section of the Department of Education of Aruba, Departamento di Enseñansa Aruba (DEA) wants to remind all students and parents who are leaving to Holland to continue their studies that there will be an information evening regarding Insurance.

As part of the preparation for these students who are leaving this year information will be given regarding the insurance of Boogaard Assurantiën N.V.

The presence of parents at these information evenings will be highly appreciated!

The information evening

will be on July 17, 18 y 19 in the college hall of Colegio EPI.

(See schedule of the information evenings dates)

To download the schedule or for more information, please visit our website: search Arubalening (under letter A) in the alphabet menu on www.ea.aw.

We are also on Facebook at: [facebook.com/education-aruba](https://www.facebook.com/education-aruba) where regularly we publish new information.

Art collector and TV chef wife Nigella agree speedy divorce

LONDON (AFP) - British art collector Charles Saatchi and his celebrity chef wife Nigella Lawson said on Monday they would not make any financial claims against each other to ensure a swift divorce.

Saatchi, 70, was cautioned by police last month for assaulting his 53-year-old wife, after pictures emerged showing him grabbing her neck at

a London restaurant.

The pair, both multi-millionaires in their own right, said in a joint statement that the first stage of the divorce would go through on July 31.

They said Lawson had employed Fiona Shackleton, the divorce lawyer used by both Prince Charles and Paul McCartney, while Saatchi was representing himself.

Saatchi announced his de-

sire to end the ten-year marriage in the press earlier this month, just days after he was forced to defend himself against accusations of domestic violence.

The former advertising executive said the pictures of him with his hand around Lawson's neck showed a "playful tiff", but he accepted a police caution for assault.



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Amadeus looking for friends and family members



We would like to introduce Amadeus to you, a donkey that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. Two weeks after his mother Bunny and big bro Maestro were brought in at the sanctuary, little Amadeus was born. The volunteers at the sanctuary knew that Bunny was pregnant, but they did not know when the happy occasion of Amadeus' birth would be. Pregnancy in donkeys takes between 11 and 14 months. When the volunteers came into the corral one morning, a healthy, cute donkey boy was curiously looking at them.

The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. But, they are expensive customers.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities

and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey and buy something at the donkey shop or make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3

p.m. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or refreshing ice cream for the kids.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt Amadeus. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30, -- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it!

Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba.

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Chysah Verstappen crowned Miss Teen Aruba International 2013



SeNd Productionz are happy to announce that their candidate at the Miss Teen Aruba International 2013 Chysah Verstappen walked away with the crown last weekend.

The night opened with a presentation by all the candidates themed "Las Vegas" followed by the bathing suit defile. All bathing suits were designed by Gigliola Gomez. After that the evening gown session continued. Chysah looked spectacular in a purple combined with turquoise evening gown designed by Sergio Winterdal.

Chysah had a very successful evening as she picked up different



prizes leading up to the maximum prize.

She also went with 'Best

Hairdo" (by Allan Kock), "Best Make-up" (Endy Croes), and "Miss Teen

Bikini."

Continued on pg 5

Chysah Verstappen crowned...

Continued from pg 4



At the gala evening Chysah also took "Miss Teen Photogenic" and "Miss Teen Congeniality."

SeNd Productionz congratulates Chysah and also the other candidates and GLW Foundation for a tremendous organized show. Special thanks goes to everyone who in one way or the other helped prepare Chysah for this grand event.

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Rolling Stone snubbed over Boston bombing suspect cover



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US magazine Rolling Stone defended Wednesday a cover story on Boston bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, which triggered criticism it was "glamorizing terrorism" and calls to boycott the publication.

At least two national chain stores announced they would not be selling the latest issue of the magazine, known for interviews with rock stars and

others.

The cover picture -- showing a goateed Tsarnaev, 19, staring sadly at the camera, his tousled brown curls falling gently into his eyes -- was likened to a famous Rolling Stone cover portrait of the late singer Jim Morrison of "The Doors," who died in unclear circumstances in 1971.

The accompanying Rolling Stones article, titled "The Bomber," was described by

the magazine as a "deeply reported account of the life and times" of Tsarnaev.

The 12-page story is based on interviews with dozens of sources that "deliver a riveting and heartbreaking account of how a charming kid with a bright future became a monster," it said.

Versions of the Tsarnaev photo have previously been reproduced by others, but Rolling Stone's use of the

image has irked many in a country still shocked by the carnage caused by the pressure cooker bombs detonated at this year's Boston Marathon.

Tsarnaev faces a 30-count indictment -- including 17 counts punishable by death -- for his role in the April 15 twin blasts at the city's marathon that killed three people and wounded more than 260.



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Mandela marks 95th birthday in hospital

Continued from pg 1



But it was through his willingness to forgive his white jailers that Mandela made his indelible mark on history.

After negotiating an end to apartheid, he became South Africa's first black president,

drawing a line under centuries of colonial and racist suppression.

He then led reconciliation in the deeply divided country.

Mandela's peace-making spirit has won him worldwide respect.

"Never before in history was one human being so universally acknowledged in his lifetime as the embodiment of magnanimity and reconciliation as Nelson Mandela," said Archbishop emeritus Desmond Tutu, himself a Nobel peace laureate.

But the sunset of his life has been somewhat eclipsed by bitter infighting among his relatives.

A row over his final resting place has seen three of his

children's graves dug up and their remains moved, public brawling and legal action among his children and grandchildren.

In a televised address, his grandson Mandla accused a sibling of impregnating his wife and Mandela's oldest daughter Makawize, of sowing divisions in South Africa's most famous family.

Mandela's oldest granddaughter Ndileka spoke of the pain caused by the rift in an interview published Wednesday.

"It was something that we did not want to take in the public space but because of who we are it was, it did spill over to the public space," she told the BBC.

"There is no way that I can never forgive but it's just that right now I'm still hurting."

Cruise captain bids for leniency at Italy trial



GROSSETO (AFP) - The captain of the Costa Concordia cruise ship requested a plea bargain deal at his trial in Italy on Wednesday over a shipwreck that claimed 32

lives.

Francesco Schettino's lawyers asked that their client serve three years and five months in prison in exchange for admitting responsibility for the disaster.

Dubbed "Italy's most hated man" by the tabloids, Schettino is accused of multiple manslaughter, abandoning ship and causing environmental damage for the disaster off the island of Giglio.

The 52-year-old faces up to 20 years in prison.

The plea bargain is seen as unlikely to be accepted since a previous request has already been turned down by a judge for preliminary investigations.

Chief prosecutor Francesco Verusio brushed off the request and told reporters there was "no doubt" of Schettino's guilt and the only question was "how long a sentence he will get".

Survivors of the January 2012 tragedy said they were still haunted by the memories of that night and wanted the trial to finally shed light on what exactly went wrong.

"We're here today to get justice," Francesco Di Ciollo, a lawyer representing two Italian families, said at the hearing in Grosseto -- the city nearest to the crash site in an idyllic spot on the Tuscan coast.

Two Koreas fail to agree on reviving joint factory estate

SEOUL (AFP) - North and South Korea failed Wednesday to reach agreement on reopening their jointly-run industrial estate as they wrangled over who was to blame for its shutdown.

A fourth round of talks about the complex again ended without agreement, but the two sides will meet again next Monday, said Seoul's chief delegate Kim Ki-Woong.

The Kaesong estate in North Korea, the last remaining symbol of cross-border cooperation, shut down in April as military tensions mounted after the North's February nuclear test and South Korean-US war games.

Dialogue resumed in recent weeks but little progress has been made amid squabbles over which side should take responsibility for the suspension of business there.

Wednesday's discussions appeared to be a repeat of previous rounds, with each side

refusing to budge on conditions for resuming operations at the estate, built after a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000.

The South urged the North to promise not to cause another closure and to take a respectful and constructive position to resolve the issue, according to an official with Seoul's unification ministry.

However the North reiterated its previous position that operations at the zone should be normalised as soon as possible, the official said.

"There was a big difference" over how to work out a legal framework to prevent a future shutdown, Kim told reporters at the end of Wednesday's talks, according to pool reports.

"The talks ended without fruit due to the unreasonable assertions and insincere attitude despite the north side's sincere efforts," it said, confirming the next round of talks for Monday.

Kerry says 'too early' to judge Egypt path after Morsi

AMMAN (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Wednesday that it was too early to judge the future course of Egypt following the ouster of Mohamed Morsi.

"Very clearly order needs to be restored to the streets, stability needs to be restored, violence needs to be ended, rights need to be protected ... and the country needs to be able to return to normal business," Kerry told a press conference in Amman.

"We are concerned about political arrests and we are concerned about the freedom of people to be able to participate, because we think that's an important part of the restoration of the heart and soul of Egypt," Kerry said.

"The proof will be in the pudding," the top US diplomat said, adding that Washington would continue to push for an inclusive government in Cairo.

On Monday, Deputy Sec-

retary William Burns became the most senior American official to visit Cairo since the July 3 coup against Morsi, and urged Egypt's divided factions to engage in dialogue and end violence.

But Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh said he had just returned from the Egyptian capital, where he met with the interim leadership, and "was extremely reassured of the implementation of the political roadmap that they've set out for themselves".




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International News

Taliban letter urges Malala to return to Pakistan

PESHAWAR (AFP) - A senior Pakistani Taliban commander has written to Malala Yousafzai, the teenage activist shot by militants, accusing her of "smearing" them and urging her to return home and join a madrassa.

Gunmen from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) shot Malala, now 16, in the head in her home town in Swat, in the country's northwest, where she campaigned for the right of girls to go to school, last October.

Malala made a powerful speech to the UN on Friday in her first public appearance since the attack which almost killed her, vowing to continue her struggle for education and not be silenced by the militants.

In an open letter released Wednesday, Adnan Rasheed, a former air force member turned TTP cadre, said he personally wished the attack had not happened, but accused her of running a "smearing campaign" against the militants.

"It is amazing that you are shouting for education, you and the UNO (UN) is pretending that you were shot due to education, although this is not the reason ... not the education but your propaganda was the issue," Rasheed wrote.

"What you are doing now, you are using your tongue on the behest of the others."

He accused Malala of seeking to promote an education system begun by the British colonialists to produce "Asians in blood but English in taste" and said students should study Islam and not what it called the "satanic or secular curriculum".

The Taliban have destroyed hundreds of schools across northwest Pakistan, an area on the frontline of the country's bloody struggle against Islamists.

Rasheed was sentenced to death over a 2003 attack on Pakistan's then military ruler General Pervez Musharraf but escaped from custody in a mass jailbreak in April last year.

Crime reporter killed in southern Mexico

OAXACA (AFP) - The bullet-riddled body of a Mexican crime beat reporter was found in the southern city of Oaxaca on Wednesday along with another unidentified victim, authorities said.

The body of Alberto Lopez Bello, a 28-year-old journalist with the daily El Imparcial, was discovered near a stream west of the city, said Manuel de Jesus Lopez, the top prosecutor for the state of Oaxaca.

Wooden planks and rocks with traces of blood were found near the bodies, which had received blows. Drug cartels often leave notes next to bodies to admit their crimes, but no such messages were found at the scene of the crime.

Mexico has endured an onslaught of drug-related violence that has left 70,000 people dead since 2006, making it one of the most dangerous countries for journalists in the world.

At least 84 media workers have been murdered and 20 more have gone missing since 2000, according to the National Human Rights Commission.

Lopez Bello had been writing about small-time drug peddling in Oaxaca, a state that has seen much less cartel-linked violence than other parts of Mexico.

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CAIRO (AFP) - A man holds a portrait of ousted president Mohamed Morsi as thousands of his supporters demonstrate for his reinstatement close to the Egyptian cabinet headquarters on Wednesday in Cairo. The demonstration came as EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton began a series of meetings in Cairo with Egypt's new leaders, including interim President Adly Mansour and vice president Mohamed ElBaradei.

Jordan inaugurates huge water project



AMMAN (AFP) - Parched Jordan on Wednesday officially inaugurated a near-billion-dollar project to supply the capital with water from an ancient southern aquifer to help meet a chronic shortage.

King Abdullah II pushed the start button to begin pumping water from the 300,000-year-old Disi aquifer, 325 kilometres (200 miles) south of Amman.

"The Disi project will provide the capital and other governorates with 100 million cubic metres (3.5 billion cubic feet) of high quality drinking

water every year," water minister Hazem Nasser told a ceremony.

He said Turkey's GAMA Energy firm built the water system in 48 months.

The water ministry stated an experimental pumping of water from wells of the Disi aquifer last Wednesday.

Officials say the much-awaited \$990 million project required 250,000 tonnes of steel and the digging of 55 wells to pump water from Disi to Amman, where the per capita daily consumption of its 2.2

million population is 160 litres (42 gallons).

The water ministry says Jordan, where 92 percent of the land is desert, will need 1.6 billion cubic metres of water a year to meet its requirements by 2015, while the population of 6.8 million is growing by almost 3.5 percent a year.

The demand for water is constantly rising in Jordan, which mainly depends on rainfall and is currently home to more than 500,000 Syrian refugees.

A 2008 study by Duke University, in the United States, shows that Disi's water has 20 times more radiation than is considered safe, with radium content that could trigger cancers.

But the government and some independent experts have brushed aside such concerns, stressing that Disi water can be treated by diluting it with an equal amount of water from other sources.



NEW YORK (AFP) - People enjoy Rockaway Beach during a heat wave on yesterday in the Rockaway Beach neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. Temperatures have been reaching 100+ degrees throughout the New York City area; temperatures are expected to stay high through the end of the week.

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Health & Living

Medical workers in second day of strike in Peru



LIMA (AFP) - Around 15,000 public sector medical workers in Peru went on strike Tuesday over demands for wage increases, officials said.

The strike came amid an outbreak of H1N1 swine flu that has killed three people, according to Health Ministry officials.

Hospital care was restricted to emergency care only during industrial action declared illegal by the Ministry of Health.

The medical profession insists that patients in intensive care or needing emergency treatment will not be affected by the dispute.

In Lima, doctors union

members marched through the streets to Congress to issue demands and urge legislators to approve pay increases.

Peruvian Medical Federation chief Cesar Palomino blamed the government of Ollanta Humala for the strike, accusing the Peruvian leader of reneging on promised wage increases agreed in 2012.

Palomino also called for the resignation of Health Minister Midori de Habich -- to be replaced by a medical professional -- although this claim is not among the formal demands of the striking workers.

The health minister responded by calling for "a little patience and collaboration" while describing the strike as "totally unjustified."

WHO holds off raising MERS alert level as Muslim hajj looms

GENEVA (AFP) - The World Health Organization on Wednesday held off from calling for travel restrictions related to the MERS virus striking Saudi Arabia as the kingdom braces for the Muslim hajj pilgrimage.

In a statement following a session of the UN health agency's emergency committee -- whose rarity underlined global concerns about MERS -- the WHO said there was currently no reason to step up its level of alert.

The meeting came amid mounting concern over the potential impact of the annual hajj in October, when millions of people will head to Islam's two holiest sites of Mecca and Medina, providing a possible means for MERS to spread around the globe.

"It is the unanimous decision of the committee that, with the information now available, and using a risk-assessment approach, the conditions for a public health emergency of international concern have not at present been met," it said.

The WHO's stance so far has been that countries should remain vigilant, monitoring unusual respiratory infection patterns, notably if patients have been to the Middle East.

However, the committee also said the WHO should help nations boost surveillance and laboratory capacity and inform the public about how to reduce the risks of infection, for example via good hygiene.

While the WHO did not call for outright travel and trade restrictions, its health security chief Keiji Fukuda said it was

poised to issue general recommendations.

On Saturday, Saudi health authorities urged the elderly and chronically ill, as well as children and pregnant women, not to perform the hajj.

MERS, short for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus, claimed its first victim in Saudi Arabia in June 2012.

Since then, a total of 82 cases have been recorded worldwide, in countries including Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Britain, France and Italy.

Saudi Arabia, however, has borne the brunt, with 65 cases -- and 38 of the 45 confirmed MERS deaths.

Experts are struggling to understand MERS, for which there is no vaccine.

Dengue prevention in the home

--Dengue mosquitoes only live and breed around your house and yard so the best way to protect yourself and your family from dengue fever is for you to empty water from containers and store undercover, or throw out, anything that can hold water. Dengue mosquitoes only need a small amount of water in a container to lay their eggs. The eggs hatch



Aedes aegypti or the dengue mosquito

into 'wrigglers' or larvae, and in 7-10 days become adult dengue mosquitoes, capable of spreading dengue fever.

* Tip out water from things like pot plant bases, plastic containers, tarpaulins, tin cans or buckets.

* Store anything that can hold water undercover or in a dry place, including tyres, gardening equipment, toys, buckets, trailers or boats.

* Throw out any rubbish lying around your yard like leaves in gutters, fallen palm fronds and unused containers or tyres.

To protect yourself and your family:

* wear a good repellent

* particularly during daylight hours when the dengue mosquito is most active

* ensure window and door screens are in good condition

* use mosquito coils or plug-in mosquito repellent devices

* wear long, loose clothing to help protect yourself from bites.

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Sci-Tech

Pollution costs India \$80 bn a year: **World Bank**



NEW DELHI (AFP) - Pollution and other environmental degradation costs India \$80 billion a year, nearly six percent of gross domestic product, the World Bank said in a report released.

The report, requested by the national government, points to air pollution and contaminated water supplies as some of the main environmental problems facing India.

The study, which assesses the impact of environmental damage in India, also said that air pollution and contaminated water could be responsible for large numbers of child deaths in the country.

The report cited a recent survey of 132 countries which ranked India 126th for envi-

ronmental performance and last for air pollution, even worse than neighbouring China, due to its power stations, traffic congestion, industry and other factors.

Reducing harmful carbon emissions was possible without a negative impact on economic growth, the report stated.

The World Bank study comes on the back of the devastating flash floods in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand which environmentalists have blamed on unregulated development and deforestation in the area.

Nearly 6,000 people are believed to have died in the disaster triggered by heavy early monsoon rains that lashed the region last month.

Yahoo! results show mixed picture for CEO Mayer

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Yahoo! said Tuesday its profit in the second quarter rose sharply from a year ago, but revenues lagged, offering a mixed picture for chief executive Marissa Mayer's turnaround efforts.

The net profit rose 46 percent from a year ago to \$331 million, slightly better than expected, but revenues excluding payments to partners fell one percent to \$1.07 billion, the Internet giant said.

Mayer cited the company's new Yahoo! News, the new Yahoo! Sports app, the redesigned Yahoo! search, the new Flickr, the new Yahoo! Mail for tablet, the Yahoo! Weather app, and the company's new Yahoo! app with Summly.

Mayer was hired from Google a year ago to help turn around the Internet pioneer, which had seen its fortunes fade.

Since then Yahoo! has been on a buying spree, and has also sold shares in China's Alibaba to boost its cash.

Its most publicized deal was a billion-dollar acquisition of the blogging platform Tumblr, expected to help bring a younger audience to Yahoo!.

EU urges Google do more to answer competition concerns

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The EU's top anti-trust official Joaquin Almunia said Wednesday he wants Internet giant Google to do more to remedy concerns it is abusing its dominant position in the search market.

EU Competition Commissioner Almunia said that after reviewing market reaction to Google's latest proposals, "I concluded that (they) ... were not enough to meet our concerns."

Accordingly, he had written to Google chief Eric Schmidt "to demand that Google improve its proposals or provide us" with new ones, Almunia said.

The Commissioner has said that an anti-trust deal with Google could be reached by the end of this year if EU de-

mands were met, depending on the company's response.

The European Commission has identified four main areas of concern, chief among them that Google favours results linked to the company's specialised services, such as surveys of restaurants or hotels.

To remedy that issue, Google has proposed to make users clearly aware when they are being directed to another Google service for a period of five years.

Brussels launched its investigation of Google in November 2010 following a complaint by several companies, including Microsoft.

A company found at fault in an EU anti-trust probe can face fines of up to 10 percent of its total annual sales.



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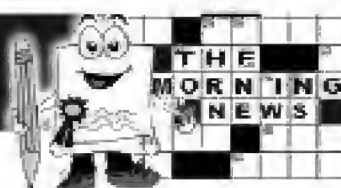
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Gave breakfast to
4. TV host Jack
8. Beak
12. Very wide shoe width
13. Muscle soreness
14. "Moby-Dick" captain
15. Yankees' sport (abbr.)
16. Unwind

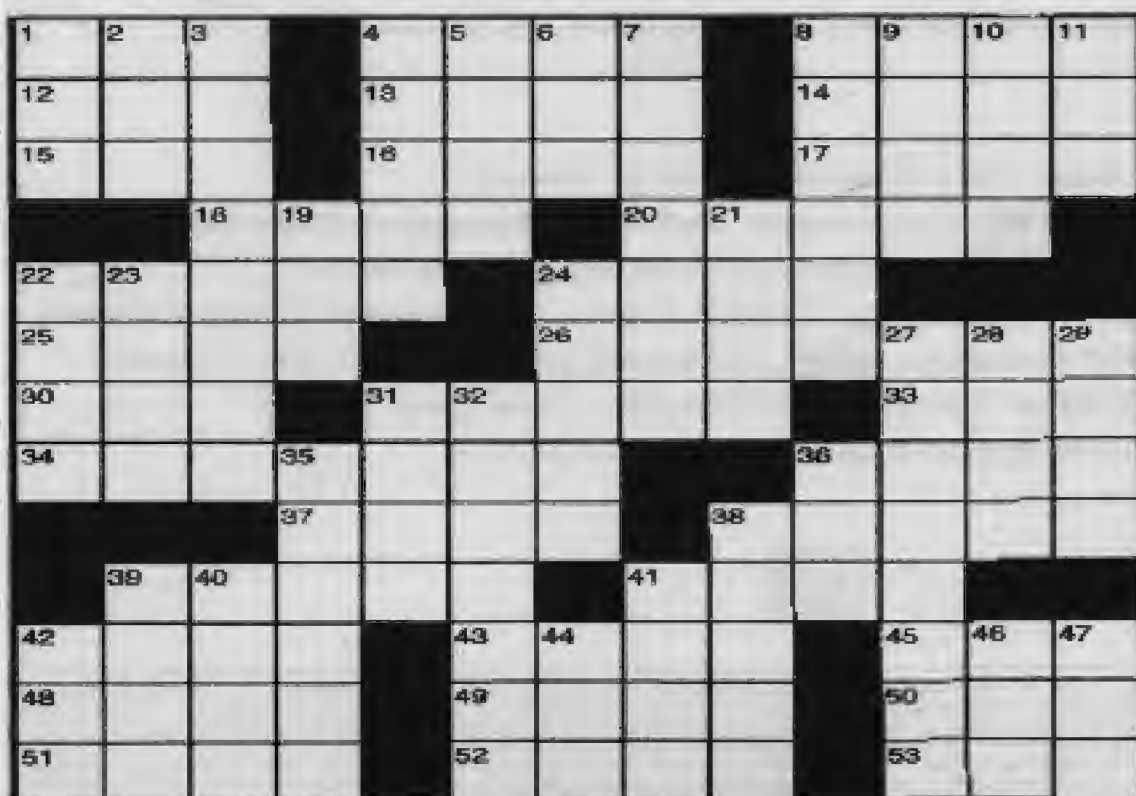
17. At a _____ (puzzled)
18. Mine finds
20. _____ Waldo Emerson
22. Mr. Doubleday
24. Store event
25. Autumn faller
26. Losing freshness
30. Canadian prov.
31. Songbirds
33. Female deer
34. Scattered
36. Broadway light
37. Frost
38. Car-stopping device
39. Singer Bobby
41. West Virginia

42. Input
43. Singer _____ Guthrie
45. Wayfarer's stopover
48. Bard of _____
49. "Thing" word
50. Tappan _____ Bridge
51. "_____ Blue"
52. "I want _____ alone" (2 wds.)
53. Female sheep

DOWN

1. Not masc.
2. Electric fish
3. Dapper
4. Fruit knife

5. Aviation heroes
6. Responses to backrubs
7. Coach again
8. Stage dance
9. Popular breakfast spot (abbr.)
10. Whip
11. Pounds (abbr.)
19. Ump's kin
21. "_____ fair..."
22. Swiss peaks
23. Red root
24. Ingrid Bergman, e.g.
27. Put on a pedestal
28. Niche
29. Kelly or Autry
31. 1940s event (abbr.)
32. Leftover scrap
35. Messenger's chore
36. '30s relief agency (abbr.)
38. Kentucky frontiersman
39. _____ Crockett
40. Spin like _____ (2 wds.)
41. Social group
42. Dapper guy
44. Kanga's baby
46. Never used
47. Malden name indicator



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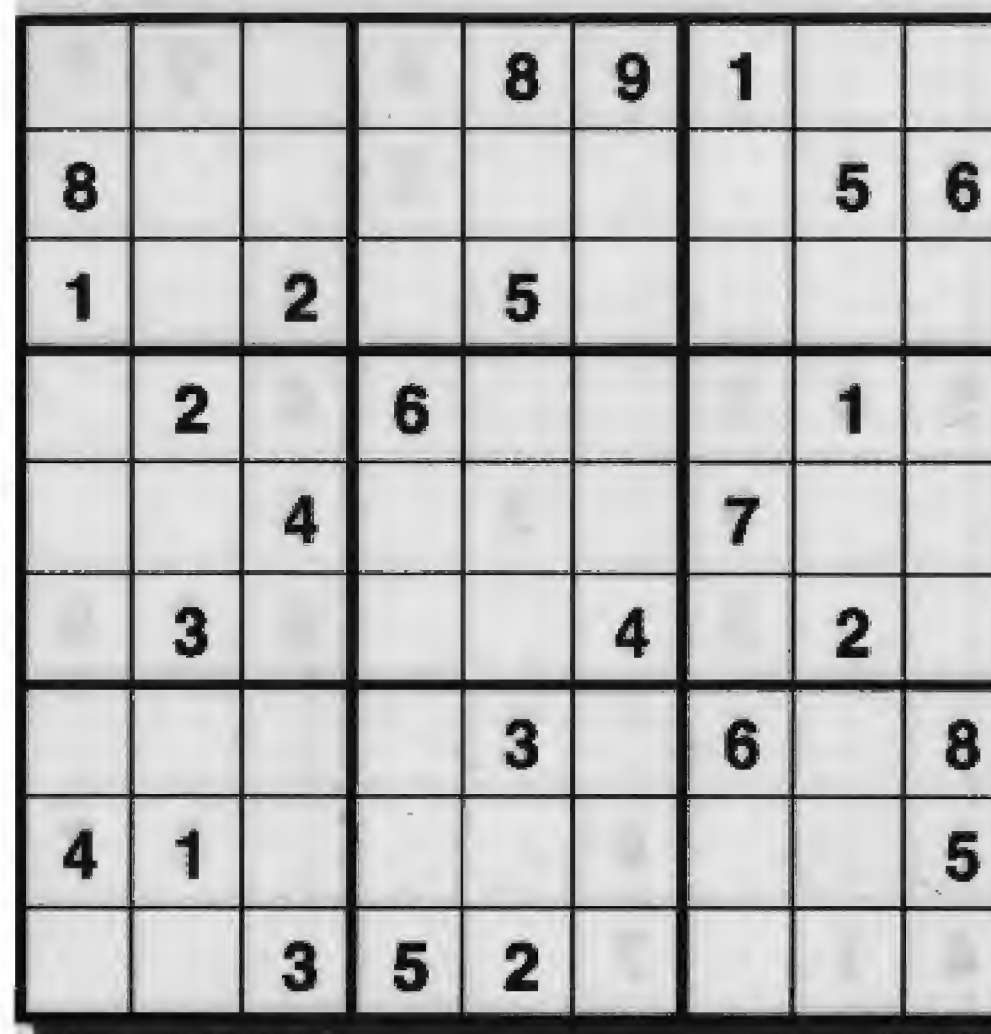
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Telephone 100

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	8	9	2	3	5	6	4	7
8	5	2	4	6	8	1	7	3
9	1	2	5	7	3	4	6	8
6	2	5	7	1	8	4	9	3
3	9	4	6	1	2	7	8	5
7	1	8	6	8	2	3	5	4
2	8	9	5	6	3	7	1	4
8	9	6	2	7	1	4	8	3
2	7	1	8	4	9	5	3	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Kuwait Issues \$74 billion budget with deficit

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - OPEC member Kuwait said on Wednesday it has issued the 2013/2014 budget, with spending projected at 21.0 billion dinars (\$73.7 billion), slightly short of last year's record expenditure of 21.2 billion dinars.

The budget, issued by the emir in a decree because parliament is dissolved, projects a deficit of 2.9 billion dinars (\$10.2 billion), much smaller than last year's estimated shortfall of \$26 billion, the finance ministry said.

Kuwait's fiscal year runs between April 1 and March 31.

Kuwait has so far not released fiscal details of year to March 2013, but provisional figures show a huge surplus of around \$38 billion.

Kuwait, which says it sits on 10 percent of global crude reserves, has projected a budget deficit every year for the past 14 fiscal years but has ended up with a healthy surplus, accumulating close to \$300 billion.

For the year to March 2014, revenues are projected at 18.1 billion dinars (\$63.5 billion), 30 percent higher than last fiscal year's projected income.

The 2013/2014 budget calculated revenues on the basis of a daily oil output of 2.7 million barrels and a price of oil of \$70

a barrel. Last year's budget had taken into account a daily oil production of 2.2 million bpd and the crude price at \$65 a barrel.

Oil revenues are estimated at 16.9 billion dinars (\$59.3 billion) or 93.3 percent of total income, said the finance ministry, cited by the official KUNA news agency.

Kuwait's public and oil revenues are expected to almost double at the end of the fiscal year because its actual oil output is 3.0 million bpd and oil prices are expected to remain above \$100 a barrel for most of the year.

Due to higher than expected income driven by firm oil prices, Kuwait decided for the second year in a row to transfer 25 percent of revenues into the emirate's sovereign wealth fund whose assets are currently estimated at over \$400 billion.

Despite abundant cashflow, development has been stalled in Kuwait due to a chronic political crisis that has seen parliament dissolved on six occasions and the cabinet resign about a dozen times since mid-2006.

Kuwait has a native population of 1.22 million in addition to 2.7 million foreigners.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	O	B	P	A	N	G	C	H	I	P
O	U	R	A	S	E	A	H	A	S	H
S	C	I	S	H	O	P	A	L	L	I
C	H	E	S	T	E	I	F	F	E	L
	H	A	M	M	S	E	T			
F	L	O	E	M	A	G	I	I	V	Y
R	E	N	M	I	D	A	S	M	A	E
Y	E	T	L	I	A	M	E	E	L	S
	A	I	L	T	E	A	S			
F	E	R	R	E	T	M	E	E	T	S
R	A	G	E	O	R	C	A	T	A	T
O	V	E	N	G	O	E	S	A	X	E
M	E	T	E	A	W	L	S	L	I	T

DO NOT



LITTER

FINANCE

Oil rises after big drop in US crude supplies

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Oil prices Wednesday moved higher after the US inventory report showed a larger-than-expected drop in US crude stockpiles.

The US benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for August delivery ended 48 cents higher at \$106.48 per barrel.

In London, Brent oil for September delivery added 47 cents to \$108.61.

The rise in prices came after the US Department of Energy said crude inventories last week fell by 6.9 million barrels, well above the 2.2 million barrels estimated by analysts in a Dow Jones Newswires survey.

It was the third straight week that US inventories dropped by a large amount.

However, analysts said the decline was offset by the gains in petroleum product stockpiles. The gains in product supplies kept oil prices from rising too much, they said.

Gasoline stocks rose by 3.1 million barrels, while home heating oil and other distillate fuel jumped by 3.9 million barrels.

The rise in gasoline supplies, as demand peaks for the summer holiday season, "makes the decline in crude oil inventories a little less critical," said Tim Evans, an analyst at Citi Futures Perspective.

"Who needs crude oil if you have plenty of gasoline?"

Meanwhile, the oil market did not react strongly to congressional testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. Bernanke said the

Fed could taper its bond-buying program later this year, but only if the economy improves.

Michael Truscetti, a broker-trader at Paramount Options, characterized the Bernanke remarks as "pretty wishy-washy."

"The markets have not really reacted either way to Bernanke," Truscetti said.

Gene McGillian, a broker and analyst at Tradition Energy, said the dynamics that pushed oil prices above \$105 in July are still in play. These include declining US crude supplies and concerns that the problems in Egypt will expand to other parts of the oil-rich Middle East.

"Until those things recede, I think the market's going to remain pretty strong," McGillian said. "The bulls are still in charge."

Brazil to post first trade deficit since 2000

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil will close the year with a trade deficit of \$2 billion, its first since 2000, the Foreign Trade Association AEB said Wednesday.

AEB attributed the expected deficit to a five percent fall in exports (expected to total \$230.5 billion) linked to falling prices of commodities and foreign sales of Brazilian oil.

Another factor was a 4.2 percent jump in imports to \$232.5 billion due to more favorable exchange rates and purchases of oil and derivatives.

"It will be Brazil's first trade deficit since 2000," AEB President Jose Augusto de Castro told AFP.

It will also be the worst trade performance in 15 years since a deficit of more than \$6 billion in 1998.

In December, the association had projected that the country would post a trade surplus of \$14.6 billion this year.

But in the first half of the year, Brazil accumulated a trade deficit of \$3 billion, the worst result for this period in 18 years.

Last year the country posted a surplus of \$19.4 billion, the lowest in 10 years, with exports reaching \$242.5 billion and imports totaling \$223.1 billion.

EU moves to cap credit card fees



BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission wants to cap fees on credit and debit-cards across the European Union, draft legislative proposals showed on Wednesday.

According to the text from the planned law seen by AFP, Brussels wants to apply a 0.2-percent ceiling on debit-card interchange fees and a 0.3-percent limit on credit-card fees as well as electronic and mobile payments.

These fees, rarely noticed by shoppers, are paid by the banks involved in a credit card

transaction and are then charged to the retailer.

But the commission believes fees paid by businesses are then passed on to consumers.

The Commission, the EU's executive arm, has long sought to rein in the fees and has suspected credit card operators such as MasterCard and Visa Europe of anti-competitive practices.

The Commission said the caps chosen were "reasonable benchmarks that are practical for the card schemes and banks and also provide legal certainty."

Commission estimates suggest the caps would almost halve the total fees levied, which now vary widely between member states.

Commission legislative proposals require the backing of EU member states and the European Parliament before they can become law.

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Work to boost jobs OECD-ILO tells G20

PARIS (AFP) - The leading 20 nations in the world must work together, and quickly, to boost policies for jobs, the job market and social safety nets, the OECD and International Labour Organisation warned on Wednesday.

Young people are in a particularly tight spot when trying to get their first job, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the ILO stressed.

Some G20 countries are struggling to overcome the effects of budget cuts, tax rises and deep reforms to control public spending, but the OECD-ILO statement highlighted the need for "sustainable" growth.

G20 finance ministers and central bankers meet in Moscow on Friday and Saturday, and on September 5 and 6 there is a G20 summit meeting in Saint Petersburg.

"The G20 will be assessed by public opinion around the world on its capacity to deliver on the growth and jobs agenda," the statement said.

The key was balancing fi-



The G20-2012 Delegates

ancial help for the unemployed with measures to encourage people "to find rewarding and productive jobs."

This meant that all countries had to work together "towards the shared objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth."

In the joint statement before labour ministers from the Group of Twenty (G20) coun-

tries meet in Moscow on Thursday and Friday, they said that 93 million people were without work in the G20 economies earlier this year.

On average, about one third of these people had been out of work for more than a year.

In advanced economies, jobs had been lost mainly in the sectors of manufacturing and construction, whereas in several emerging countries

construction had led the creation of jobs.

The economies of G20 countries would have to create 67 million jobs to raise the ratio of the people in work to the total workforce to the level before the financial crises began six years ago.

However "over the last 12 months, unemployment has dropped marginally in half of

the G20 countries while it has risen in the other half," the joint statement said.

"Unemployment is above 25 percent in South Africa and Spain, 11 percent or above in France and Italy and for the EU (European Union) as a whole," the statement said.

It was above 7 percent in Canada, Turkey, Britain and the United States.

However, it was below 6 percent in Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, in most of the countries, the growth of real wages, after allowing for inflation, had slowed down or fallen.

Increased cooperation on enacting new policies which have been shown to work "would greatly enhance" the effect on employment.

"It is of utmost importance to restore stronger, sustainable economic growth," the statement said.

Pope ditches bullet-proof car for Brazil trip



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis will ditch the bullet-proof "popemobile" used by his predecessors on his visit to Brazil this month and travel in an open-top jeep, the Vatican said Wednesday.

"This is the pope's choice, in continuity with what he is doing here. He feels better when there is contact" with the crowd, Lombardi said.

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi also dismissed concerns ahead of the July 22-28 trip about the demonstrations that have recently been rocking Brazil.

"We know the demonstrations are not at all aimed at the pope or the Church," Lombardi said.

More than a million young people from 170 countries are

expected for World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

The spokesman also gave further details about the pope's programme including a helicopter trip to the Marian sanctuary of Aparecida and his visit to the Varginha favela in Rio where he will visit a family.

Meanwhile the local branch of the global "hacktivist" group Anonymous called for a protest rally here during a meeting next week between Pope Francis and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.

In a call made via Facebook, Anonymous urged demonstrators to gather outside the headquarters of the Rio state government "to protest against the \$90 million in public spending for the papal visit,



against (Rio state) Governor Sergio Cabral and other senior officials."

The group said the rally would also denounce "excessive police violence" during June's mass demonstrations, when hundreds of thousands of Brazilians took to the streets to demand better public services and an end to corruption.

The rally would also press for "a secular state," it added.

Press reports have estimated the cost of staging WYD at between \$160 and \$175 million, including \$53 million from public coffers.

So far the only other demonstrations planned during the pope's visit are those by gay rights activists and a "Slut Walk" by feminists to protest sexual violence against women.

Royal baby watch....

ROYAL BABY BETTING GIRLS' NAMES

6/4 ALEXANDRA
6/1 CHARLOTTE
7/1 ELIZABETH
9/1 VICTORIA
10/1 DIANA
12/1 ISABELLA
16/1 ALICE
20/1 MARY
25/1 ELEANOR
25/1 GRACE
40/1 ANNE
40/1 KATE (CATHERINE)
40/1 FRANCES
50/1 EMILY
50/1 FLORENCE
50/1 MARGARET
50/1 MATILDA
50/1 PHILOPPA
50/1 SOPHIA



ROYAL BABY BETTING

BOYS' NAMES

4/1 GEORGE
9/1 JAMES
20/1 PHILIP
40/1 ALEXANDER
40/1 CHARLES
40/1 LOUIS
50/1 ALBERT
50/1 ANDREW
50/1 ARTHUR
50/1 EDWARD
50/1 HENRY
50/1 JOHN
50/1 RICHARD
50/1 DEWEY
50/1 ALBERT
50/1 DAVID



LONDON (AFP) : A bookmaker presents the latest odds on girls and boys names outside the Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in London Thursday, where Prince William and his wife Catherine's baby is expected to be born. Britain's Prince Charles joked Monday that his son Prince William's baby was "hopefully" on the way, but wife Camilla went further, saying it could arrive "by the end of the week".

Chef's Table, "A hidden gem" close to both Palm and Eagle Beach resorts



--Tucked away down the main Bubali Road, just a mile from the Super Food market is one of Aruba's most charming eateries, known for fine food and exceptional surrounding. Chef's Table has been described by loyal patrons as "a hidden gem," and the attention to quality by the amiable staff will prompt the new visitor to agree.

Delightful decorations of original art set the mood in this converted landmark



country home, divided into several cozy rooms. There is also the choice of dining al fresco in the central gardens, one of the great options of eating out on Aruba.

A gourmet menu includes such unique items as an individual Mediterranean Fish Pot, served with pasta, or a creative sauce for the very fresh catch of the day. Guest particularly rave about their



"Surf & Turf," of lobster and filet mignon, uniquely marinated duck breast, and "Black & White Sesame Tuna" served with a Lemon-Zucchini Risotto.

Chef's Table is one of those few restaurants you can count on to be open both Sunday and Monday, as Wednesday is their day off. Don't miss the opportunity to



try this moderately priced, gourmet treat in most pleasant surroundings, and save just a tad of room for their famous "tapas" style desserts, offering a shot glass of sweetness, the perfect end to a delectable meal and most pleasant evening. Visit their website <http://www.chefstablesaruba.com/> to meet Chef Martin and the crew.

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Rio covers up curves of female sand sculptures for pope visit



--RIO DE JANEIRO Pope Francis due here next week, sand artists have covered up the curves of female sculptures on Brazil's world famous Copacabana beach.

The beach is where crowds of young Catholic faithful from around the globe will welcome the pontiff for World Youth Day.

"My job is to build sand women but out of respect for the pope and at the very spot where he is to give his blessing, I changed their attire," said sculptor Ubiratan dos Santos.

Next to a sand sculpture of Pope Francis seated in an armchair under a -- real -- palm tree, dos Santos' trademark

bikini-clad woman, lying on her stomach, now dons a small pleated skirt.

Sand sculptures of women by other artists now also have their chests covered.

"I want the pope to bless us all and the world, we need his faith," dos Santos said.

But not all are on board with the move to modesty.

Rio caricaturist Lan objected to the initiative, stressing that the city exudes sensuality.

"It is an exuberant city," he told the daily O Globo. "Curves are part of the city's collective imagination and it was not necessary to cover the sculptures."

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Football: Zambia, Zimbabwe reach Cosafa Cup final

NDOLA (AFP) - Hosts Zambia pipped South Africa 5-3 on penalties after a 0-0 draw Wednesday to reach the Cosafa Cup final.

And the decider in mining city Ndola this weekend will be a repeat of the last one in 2009 after title-holders Zimbabwe edged Lesotho 2-1 earlier.

Zambia converted all five mandatory shootout kicks with the decisive penalty netted by captain and centre-back Bronson Chama.

Alex Ngonga, Bornwell Mwape, teenager Moses Phiri and Kabaso Chongo were the other scorers for the Chipolopolo (Copper Bullets).

Thulani Hlatshwayo, Lebogang Manyama and Mzikayise Mashaba scored for Bafana Bafana (The Boys) and Lerato Chabangu had his effort parried by Danny Munyau.

It was a gripping end to a match that did not live up to expectations as the southern Africa national team championship reached the penultimate stage.

Neither Munyau nor opposite number and South Africa skipper Wayne Sandilands were severely tested in regular or extra time at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium.

South Africa will feel hard done by because they rattled the woodwork twice during the second half of regular time and Zambia only once.

With both teams fielding experimental teams, there was a lack of rhythm as Zambia attacked more and South Africa defended confidently.

Zimbabwe continued their dominance over Lesotho in the first half of the Ndola double-header by coming from behind to win through a Tendai Ndoro brace.

The Warriors had won 11 and drawn three of the previous 15 clashes against the Likuena (Crocodiles) with the lone loss sustained 12 years ago.

Lesotho have been the surprise side of a tournament first staged in 1997 and revived after a three-year absence due to lack of sponsorship.

They topped a mini-league that included more fancied Kenya and Botswana and edged three-time champions Angola on penalties in the quarter-finals.

But the fatigue from playing five matches in 10 days caught up with them against Zimbabwe, although they did waste a late chance to equalise.

Lesotho were ahead within four minutes when Notlalepula Mofolo swept in a low cross from Thapelo Tale after Zimbabwe failed to cut off a through pass.

Ndoro, who made his international debut last weekend, levelled on 15 minutes by controlling a long throw-in and firing past Phasumane Kholuoe.

The striker struck again 10 minutes later when he connected with an Eric Chipeta cross and the ball flew wide of the goalkeeper and into the net.

Lehlomela Ramabele could have taken the match to extra time when he had only Maxwell Nyamupangedu to beat three minutes from time, but blazed wide.

South Africa and Lesotho play for third place Saturday in the curtain-raiser to the final.



KALMAR (AFP) - Norway's midfielder Ingvild Isaksen (L) and Germany's defender Leonie Maier (R) vie for the ball during the UEFA Women's European Championship Euro 2013 group B football match Germany vs Norway on Wednesday in Kalmar, Sweden. Norway won 1-0 and finished group B in the 1st place.



Today's Matches:

group C:

Fra - Eng

Rus - Spa

both games @ 20.30

SPORTS

Golf: Park tunes up for LPGA Grand Slam bid



SYLVANIA (AFP) - South Korea's Park In-bee, the world number one bidding for an LPGA Grand Slam, tunes up this week at the Marathon Classic ahead of next month's Women's British Open.

Park has won the year's first three major titles among six victories in 2013, becoming the first woman since Babe Zaharias in 1950 to capture the first three majors in a season.

This week's \$1.3 million event in suburban Toledo is the final LPGA tournament before Park's next major test, the Women's British Open at legendary St. Andrews.

Should Park win there, she could complete a sweep of all five of this year's LPGA majors by defending her title in

France in September at the Evian Championship, an event promoted to major status for this season.

Every new major title has added to the pressure upon Park, who captured the Kraft Nabisco crown in April, the LPGA Championship and US Women's Open in June and non-major crowns in Thailand, Texas and Arkansas.

With men's golf typically having four events in a Grand Slam, there is a sense that Park will complete a Slam sweep by winning at St. Andrews.

Saying that, however, Park does not diminish the status of the French event, saying that for her, the \$3.2 million event has always been a major.

Olympics: USOC rejects call for Sochi boycott over Snowden

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Olympic Committee officials rejected a political call Wednesday for American athletes to boycott the 2014 Sochi Winter Games if Russia grants asylum to Edward Snowden.

Americans boycotted the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics in the wake of the Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan, but USOC spokesperson Patrick Sandusky made it clear that painful lessons were learned from that move and a subsequent Soviet boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

"If there are any lessons to be learned from the American boycott of 1980, it is that Olympic boycotts do not work," Sandusky said.

US Senator Lindsey Graham told NBC, the US Olympic telecaster, that he thought the United States should consider a boycott of next February's Sochi Winter Olympics if Russia were to grant Snowden asylum.

Graham also compared the Russian hosting of the Winter Olympics in Sochi to Nazi Germany's hosting of the 1936 Summer Olympics.

US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner dismissed the idea by his fellow Republican lawmaker, calling it "dead wrong."

White House spokesman Jay Carney would not address the notion of a US boycott of Sochi, saying, "I'm not going to engage in speculation about that and the Olympics are a long way off."

Asked if US President Barack Obama thought a boycott was a bad idea, Carney said, "A lawmaker put it out there. We're not even focused on that... It's not one (idea) that is an issue right now because we're engaged with the Russians and other governments in helping bring about a positive resolution to this matter."

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Froome beats Contador to Tour's 17th stage TT

CHORGES (AFP) - Britain's Chris Froome tightened his grip on the Tour de France yellow jersey after beating Spanish rival Alberto Contador in the 17th stage time trial on Wednesday.

Froome, taking his third stage win of the 100th edition, finished the hilly 32 km race against the clock in a time of 51min 33sec to beat former two-time champion Contador by nine seconds.

Contador's efforts moved him up to second place overall at the expense of Dutchman Bauke Mollema but the Saxo team leader saw his deficit go from 4:25 to 4:34 a day ahead of a crucial 18th stage in the



Alps.

After stepping off the podium, where he made three visits for the stage win, the yellow jersey and the best climber's polka dot jersey, Froome said his win was unexpected.

Coupled with the threat of rain for the late starters, many riders faced the dilemma of deciding whether to swap their

habitual road race bikes for time trial machines at the summit of the day's final climb, which was followed by a far less technical descent than the descent of the Puy-Sanières climb at the 25.5 km mark.

Contador was one of the few favourites who opted to use his normal bike, albeit with aero bars fitted to the handlebars.

Having led Froome over the first three time checks, the Saxo team leader's time of 51:42 -- one second faster than compatriot Joaquim Rodriguez (Katusha) -- looked good enough for the win.

Contador, who on Monday was accused by Froome of trying to make him crash -- as the Briton followed the Spaniard on a dangerous descent into Gap -- could only watch in frustration as Froome crossed the line in triumph.

Athletics: Powell, Simpson point finger at physio - agent

LONDON (AFP) - Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell and his team-mate Sherone Simpson are blaming their new physiotherapist after they tested positive for a banned stimulant, Britain's Daily Telegraph said on Tuesday, quoting the athletes' manager.

Both athletes have pointed to contaminated food supplements as the reason why they failed the tests, which have cast a cloud over the build-up to the athletics world championships in Moscow next month and put sprinting in the spotlight.

The daily quoted Paul Doyle as saying in an interview that both Powell and Simpson had only recently begun working with Canadian physio Chris Xuereb at his base in northern Italy.

US-based Doyle said he had no reason to suspect "mal-intent" on Xuereb's part and that, like the athletes, he was probably unaware of what exactly what the supplements contained.

Both athletes tested positive for oxilofrine at the Jamaican championships last month.

Italian police reportedly brought Xuereb in for questioning and raided his base on Monday, although the country's news agency ANSA said no arrest had been made.

Xuereb began treating Powell for a hamstring injury that flared up in March this year, according to Doyle.

He added that Xuereb gave Powell 17 supplements, three of which were administered by injection, and all were legal, he added.

Simpson checked whether any of the supplements contained proscribed substances, although did not seek independent medical verification, Doyle said.

He also accepted that Powell had not informed his coach, Stephen Francis, about the supplements.

ANSA on Tuesday said both Powell and Simpson had left Italy, quoting sources close to the investigation.

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VAXJO (AFP) - Netherlands' Kirsten van de Ven (L) heads the ball during the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 group B football match between the Netherlands and Iceland, at Vaxjo Arena in Vaxjo, Sweden, yesterday. Iceland won 1-0.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	58	39	.598	--
TAMPA	55	41	.573	2.5
BALTIMORE	53	43	.552	4.5
YANKEES	51	44	.537	6.0
TORONTO	45	49	.479	11.5

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	52	42	.553	--
CLEVELAND	51	44	.537	1.5
KANSAS	43	49	.467	8.0
MINNESOTA	39	52	.424	12.0
CHICAGO	37	55	.402	14.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
OAKLAND	56	39	.589	--
TEXAS	54	41	.568	2.0
LA ANGELES	44	49	.473	11.0
SEATTLE	43	52	.453	13.0
HOUSTON	33	61	.351	22.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	54	41	.568	--
WASHINGTON	48	47	.505	6.0
PHILADELPHIA	48	48	.500	6.5
NY METS	41	50	.451	11.0
MIAMI	35	58	.376	18.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
ST. LOUIS	57	36	.613	--
PITTSBURGH	56	37	.602	1.0
CINCINNATI	53	42	.558	5.0
CHICAGO	42	51	.452	15.0
MILWAUKEE	38	56	.404	19.5

West	W	L	Pct	GB
ARIZONA	50	45	.526	--
DODGERS	47	47	.500	2.5
COLORADO	46	50	.479	4.5
SAN FRANCISCO	43	51	.457	6.5
SAN DIEGO	42	54	.438	8.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ



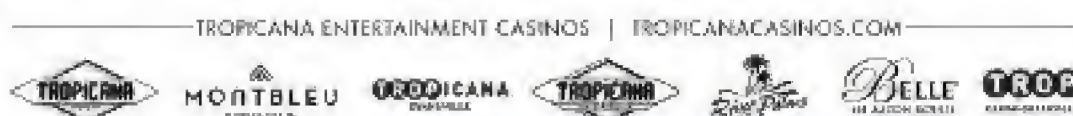
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Baseball: Rivera steals show as AL blanks NL



NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Mariano Rivera earned MVP honours after a flawless eighth inning to lead the American League to a 3-0 win over the National League in the Major League Baseball all-star game.

The New York Yankee star and the rest of the American League pitchers had a three-hit shutout in Tuesday's 34th edition of the Midsummer Classic.

"Priceless, again priceless," said Rivera, who was given the keys to a 2014 blue Chevrolet Corvette Stingray for his efforts. "There is nothing better than this. I appreciate every bit of it."

The 2013 all-star game turned into a pitching duel with the American League using a half dozen hurlers, including the 43-year-old Panamanian who was appearing in his 13th all-star contest.

Rivera, who usually enters in the ninth for his New York Yankees, joined the game in the eighth and easily dispatched all three batters he faced.

Rivera got a standing ovation from not only the boisterous crowd at Citi Field stadium -- the home of the New York Mets -- but players

and managers from both teams who came out of their dugouts to cheer him.

Rivera said he spoke to AL manager Jim Leyland about doing something special before Tuesday's game. As is the tradition in Yankee Stadium, Rivera left the bullpen and jogged on to the field to the sounds of the "Enter Sandman" song by the Los Angeles rock band Metallica.

Chicago White Sox lefty Chris Sale breezed through two innings to collect the victory, while Jason Kipnis, Jose Bautista and J.J. Hardy each finished with an RBI in the victory.

"Those guys on the National League side they have a lot of great pitching over there," AL outfielder Torii Hunter said. "But we got three runs off those great pitchers and Mariano came in and he is one of the best pitchers to ever play this game."

There was more at stake Tuesday night than just Rivera's legacy and bragging rights. With the win the AL gets home-field advantage in the World Series.

Next year's all-star game will be contested at Target Field in Minnesota.



USA beats Costa Rica to win Group C

HARTFORD (AFP) - The United States, who had already advanced to the quarter-finals, defeated Costa Rica 1-0 on Tuesday to clinch top spot in the C group of the Concacaf Gold Cup tournament.

Neither team failed to create a lot of scoring chances in the opening half which ended 0-0.

Brek Shea scored late in the contest as he lifted the Americans over Costa Rica with his first goal in international play. In Tuesday's other group C contest, Ariel Martinez scored a hat trick as Cuba reached the quarter-finals with a 4-0 dismantling of lowly Belize. On Sunday, the USA will square off against El Salvador. The other quarter-finals will see Cuba battle Panama, Mexico face Trinidad and Honduras go up against Costa Rica.



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